(b) if so, the specific steps taken to fulfil commitment to meet the deadline; and

(c) the details of the road map drawn-up, if any, towards sector decontrol involving *inter-alia* withdrawal of subsidies on Kerosene and cooking gas rationalizing duty structure and liquidating the oil pool deficit etc. and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are yet to be finalised.

Reduction of subsidy on LPG

253. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S ANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the Government decisions of November 1997 on the phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM), subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) at 15% of the import parity is to be met from the fiscal budget effective 1.4.2002. At present, no proposal is under consideration of the Government in this regard.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

254. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to utilise natural gas in the country?